

The reACT₂ant

Spring
2007-
2008

Here's to Summer!!

Volume 15 Issue #3

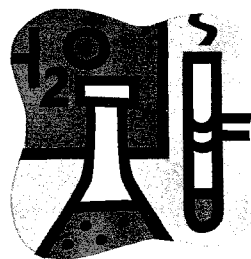
You know last spring, I remember thinking how enjoyable that extra-long summer was going to be. What I wasn't considering at that point in time was how desperately long the last six weeks would be as it marches into June. Past Spring Break...past the Prom...past TAKS...past AP tests...the days just keep marching on and on.

Right now my students are interested in just about anything that doesn't involve learning, thinking, reading and writing or math. They are so lethargic, they don't even get excited about labs because that would require that they get up from their desks. Urrgh! Although we can't utilize Skinnerian techniques—nothing like a few volts to the cage to get the desired behavior—perhaps we can dig a little deeper to try to keep the students motivated.

One method might be trying to incorporate an inquiry lab or two into these final weeks. Read Rebecca Carlock's report on sessions that she attended at ChemEd 07 that inspired her this year. Try searching for relevant articles from past issues of *ChemMatters* (<http://portal.acs.org/Education—Resources>) that relate to the topics you'll be covering—students' interest might soar if they see a connection in their lives. For sure, I know that I will definitely need a solid recharging of my teacher batteries this summer. I suspect by the time June 7th arrives, my ΔG will

definitely equal zero!

Luckily, there are some great offerings this summer for you to learn and have fun with other cool Chemistry folks. This summer marks our first ACT₂ Biennial on the new even-year rotation and I'm excited about camping in some piney woods. The BCCE is up in Purdue if you're having a yen for a boilermaker and there are many other AP workshops as well as ACS workshops (see P. 11) to be found. Plan to make the most of your summer by fitting in a little time for rejuvenating your teaching spirit!



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Board Notes



Well it is that time again, I submitted my IRS report in January and have already spent the money on airfare to Alaska for the summer. Our oldest son has lived in Juneau for three years. This July 4, will mark our 40th wedding anniversary and Bina wants to spend it in Juneau. TAKS is just a couple of weeks away, and then the AP tests, and before we realize what happened the year will come to a close. OMG!

Start planning now to attend Rhonda's Biennial "Fueling the Future" in Tyler in early August. We will spend the days at Rhonda's school, Tyler Lee, and nights out in the countryside. How cool does that sound? She has some great guest speakers coming in from out of state, and some down-home style cooking at the Park. Circle the dates and come join the fun!

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Tantalizing Tidbits

Roxie has just put together a great slate of Officers for next year. Several new faces will fill Rhonda's cabinet as she slides into the President's chair for the first time in November.

Plan now to attend CAST 08 in Fort Worth on Nov 4 - 7. Hotel registration is scheduled to open on May 1st. STAT has been working hard to correct some of the registration problems and hopefully it will be much smoother this year. Part of the conference information will be mailed back to you and some of it will be picked up at the conference. ACT₂ is putting together another strand for your enjoyment. Don't spend all of your money this summer. Dale

Officer Nominations for 2008-2010 ACT₂ Board

Voting will take place at the Biennial meeting this summer. In addition to the proposed slate, there will also be nominations from the floor.

President-Elect	Amiee Modic
Secretary	Paul Price
Treasurer	Rosendo Garcia
Newsletter Editor	Michelle Barnett

Historian and Web-Master are positions appointed by the Board. If you have additional questions, please contact Roxie Allen.

BCCE 2008 (Biennial Conference on Chemical Education) at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana July 27-31, 2008

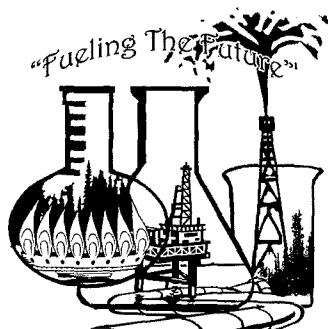
If ChemEd 07 was your first introduction to a big international conference on Chemical Education, here's a chance to attend another big conference the week before you head to Tyler for the ACT₂ Biennial. The 2008 BCCE registration site is now open. You can access the registration site by going to the BCCE website, **<http://bcce2008.indiana.edu>**, and follow the menu choices "Attending" > "Registration Book" > "On-line Registration". You will have to create a new user account in order to register.

Check out the website for the wide variety of workshop offerings, on-campus and off-campus housing options, the 5K Fun Run, the Mole Day Breakfast, & local Bloomington tours. There will be lots of opportunities for learning as well as big fun—the final BCCE Blowout Party is featuring the band Al D. Hyde and the Key Tones! There are limited spaces in the workshops and they will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis so you should register early. After June 2nd, there will be an increase in the registration prices.

Fueling the Future—ACT₂ Biennial

Page 4

Announcing the 2008 ACT₂ Biennial to be held at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, Texas with housing at Camp Tyler on Lake Tyler or local hotels.



Why participate in the 2008 Biennial Conference?

Featured Plenary Speakers
Hands-On Workshops
Presentations and Demonstrations
Effective Classroom Strategies
Network with other Chemistry Teachers and Exchange Ideas
Focus on the Joy and Fun of Teaching Chemistry

Featured Presenters:

Jeff Hepburn Paul Price
John Mauch Penney Sconzo

Social Events:

Evening Social Events at Camp Tyler:

Sunday: Hot Dog Dinner Social, Goggle Dye Extravaganza and Mean Green Demo Machine at Camp Tyler (part of registration fee)

Monday: Team Building Challenge (rock wall, zip line and more) Dinner and S'mores at Camp Tyler (part of the room and board fee for Camp Tyler, tickets are available)

Tuesday: Evening field trip to Kiepersol winery (limited number of tickets)

Apache rooms at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, TX:

Wednesday : Banquet and Silent Auction (part of registration fee)

Social Event at Robert E. Lee:

Thursday: George Hague Ice Cream Social and Door prizes (part of registration fee)

Field Trips:

- Delek Refinery 12:30 to 4:00 on 8-5-08 \$18.00 limited to 33
The field trip will consist of a film and information about oil refining followed by a guided tour of the oil refinery. <http://www.delekus.com/delekrefining.php>
- Kiepersol Vineyard and Winery 7:00 PM on 8-5-08 \$15.00 Limited to 30
The after - hours tour features the vineyards and surround property, a winery tour, and a visit to the tasting room. After the tasting, dessert will be served on a balcony overlooking the property.
- East Texas Oil Museum 12:30 to 4:30 on 8-6-08 \$ 20.00 (plus a \$6.00 ticket price collected at the museum) limited to 33. This fascinating Kilgore museum houses the authentic re-creation of oil discovery and production in the early 1930s from the largest oil field inside U.S. boundaries.

August 3 - 7, 2008 — Tyler

Registration Information:

Your pre-registration fee of \$110 (\$95 for workshop presenters who submit proposals before July 1st) includes workshops, plenary sessions, tote bag and goodies, T-shirt, ice cream social, hot dog dinner with the Mean Green Demo team and goggle dying extravaganza, banquet, and ACT₂ dues. WOW!!!

On-site registration will be \$135. Please use the registration forms on pages 6-9 or fill in the information on the on-line form, print and mail the completed form and your check to: Melanie Little 14877 CR2215 Tyler, TX 75707.



Housing Information:

This year we'll have a different sort of adventure. Main housing will be at Camp Tyler where we will have access to the lodge area as well as our cabins. Although the cabins are a bit more rustic than a hotel, they do have showers and air conditioning. You will have to provide complete bedding and linens and you may want to bring a lawn chair. However we will enjoy some lovely lake views and have lots of opportunities to socialize and network. If you'd like to see some pictures of the camp visit <http://www.tylerisd.org/camptyler/Facilities.htm>. Also, lodging at the camp will include all meals served at the camp (breakfast 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th; dinner 4th, 5th) as well as box lunches (4th, 5th, 6th) and of course, the banquet. Cost is \$80 and there are a limited number of camp spaces so it will be first come, first served.

Area hotels are also a housing option and you can purchase meal tickets for the box lunches at Robert E. Lee High School (\$25) as well as the Team Building Challenge event including dinner and s'mores at Camp Tyler (\$8).

Area hotels include:

- Best Western Inn 120 W. Rieck Rd.
- Candlewood Suites 315 E. Rieck Rd.
- Comfort Suites 303 Rieck Rd.
- La Quinta Inn 1601 W. SW Loop 323



THINGS TO BRING TO THE BIENNIAL

Everyone:

Close-toed shoes, flash drive (512MG should be more than adequate), Share-A-Thon materials, silent auction items, calculator

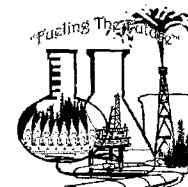
Campers:

Pillow & bedding (sleeping bag or sheet & blanket)
Washcloth and towel
Storage for personal items (a rubber maid container)
Lawn Chair (?)

Reset Form



Fueling the Future 2008 ACT₂ Biennial Conference August 3-7, 2008



Robert E. Lee High School 411 ESE Loop 323 Tyler, TX 75701
and housing at Camp Tyler on Lake Tyler
15143 Camp Tyler Road Whitehouse, TX 75791

Conference Registration Form

Print Clearly, and mail the completed form with your payment to:

Melanie Little
14877 CR 2215
Tyler, TX 75707

Write checks payable to ACT₂.

Personal Information

Current Date 12/31/07

School

Name

District

Home
Address

Position

City

Home
e-mail

State

Zip code

School
e-mail

Phone

Off site registration will be available until July 10, 2008. After this date, you will be required to register on site.

On site registration and check in will be from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm August 3, 2008, and 7:00 am to 10:00 am August, 4, 2008, in the library at Robert E. Lee High School (411 ESE Loop 323 Tyler, TX).

Conference Registration Fee Includes: Workshops - Plenary Sessions - Conference Program - Tote Bag and Goodies - T-Shirt - Ice Cream Social - Sunday Hot Dog Dinner featuring The Mean Green Demo Machine and Goggle Dyeing Extravaganza - Banquet - ACT₂ Dues. *Presenters will receive a \$15.00 registration fee discount if the Registration Form is submitted before July tenth and the Presenter Proposal Forms is submitted before July first.* Participating only in the Share- A-Thon does not qualify you for the discounted registration fee.

Field trips, accommodations, and meals are extra.

Early bird registration before July 10, 2008 \$110.00 and \$135.00 on site

Early bird registration for presenters before July 10, 2008 \$95.00

ACT₂ * ASSOCIATED CHEMISTRY TEACHERS of TEXAS* Phone: 903-566-5262 OR 903-520-2790

Check box for T-Shirt Size	☐ Small
	☐ Medium
	☐ Large
	☐ XL
	☐ XXL
	☐ XXXL

For information on housing at Camp Tyler , meal plans and available Hotels near Robert E. Lee open the adobe file "Conference Room and Board Information".

Registration Fees

Conference: before 7-10-08 \$110.00 or \$95.00 for Presenters=	
---	--

Delek refinery 8-5-08 from 12:30 to 4:00 \$20.00=	
---	--

Kiepersol Vineyard and Winery: Tour, Tasting and Dessert 8-5-08 7:00 PM Limited to 30 \$15.00=	
--	--

East Texas Oil Museum (\$6.00 admission paid at museum) 8-6-08 from 12:30 to 4:30 \$18.00=	
---	--

Select Sizes and Number of Additional T-Shirt(s)	Small	
	Medium	
	Large	
	XL	
	XXL	
	XXXL	

Additional T-Shirt(s) \$10.00 add an additional \$2.00 for sizes XXL and XXXL Total =	
--	--

Cabin Housing, all Meals for the 3rd - 6th and all events at the Camp \$80.00=	
--	--

In order to assign cabin mates please mark your gender:

☐ female

☐ male

Only lunch at Robert E. Lee \$25.00=	
---	--

Extra Banquet tickets	Number =	
\$12.00 each Total =		

Team building games, dinner and s'mores at Camp Tyler Monday 8-4-08 Number =	
\$8.00 each Total=	

Total	
-------	--

Transportation is included in the cost of the field trip. The \$6.00 ticket to the East Texas Oil Museum is not covered in the field trip fee.

Field Trips: (Subject to change)

Please see the web page at www.statweb.org/act2/ for up to date information.

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<http://www.statweb.org/ACT2/>

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Scholarships

There are a limited number of scholarships available to defray registration fees raised by the silent auction at the 2005 conference. If you would like to be considered for one, please complete the form as soon as possible and submit it with payment for everything except registration. Grant decisions will be made on Friday May 16th, based on forms received at that time. You will be notified if you are awarded a scholarship or not so that you can complete registration. Teachers attending the conference for the first time, followed by teachers traveling the farthest distance, then those willing to present will be considered for the scholarship.

☐ Please consider me for a scholarship. Type a paragraph in the space below stating why you should be awarded a scholarship.

Scholarship	
-------------	--

ACT₂ Silent Auction

The silent auction will occur at the banquet in the Apache room at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, TX.

Share-A-Thon

We are organizing a Round Table "Share-A-Thon" - a chance to share a 3 minute teaching tip/lab/activity/ demonstration or anything else. You will share with 10 participants at a time and we will rotate the participants to different tables every 30 minutes. Bring 10 copies for participants to view at your table. All participants will have your Share-A-Thon material copied to their flash drive if you provide a copy. E-mail your hand out as an attachment to biennial08@gmail.com with the subject line Share-A- Thon by July 1st.

☐ I need CPE credit certificate

☐ I will bring items for the silent auction (science stuff, fun stuff, silly stuff!)

☐ I will bring a favorite activity, teaching tip, resource or fun idea for the Share-A-Thon

ACT₂ * ASSOCIATED CHEMISTRY TEACHERS of TEXAS* Phone: 903-566-5262 OR 903-520-2790

ACT₂ Membership Form

Please fill out the following form.
Membership fees are covered in your registration fee.

First Name		Middle Initial		Last Name	
School e-mail					
Home e-mail					
School District				ESC Region	
Campus Name					
					STAT member: ☐ Y ☐ N
Home Address					
City		State		Zip Code	
Home Phone			School Phone		

You will receive your copy of the reACTant?

Mini reACTants which are Electronic copy via Internet and hard copy reACTant via the mail

Job Description (check all that apply):

☐ Teacher	☐ Supervisor	☐ High School
☐ Two-year College	☐ Four-year University	

Check One :

☐ New Member	☐ Renew Membership
-------------------------------------	---

Write Checks Payable to ACT₂. Mail the registration form and payment to the address below.

Melanie Little
14877 CR 2215
Tyler, TX 75707

The 4 page registration form and payment must be postmarked by July 10, 2008 for the early registration fee. A confirmation e-mail will be sent after payment is received.

ACT₂ * ASSOCIATED CHEMISTRY TEACHERS of TEXAS* Phone: 903-566-5262 OR 903-520-2790

The highlight of any ACT₂ Biennial Conference are the workshops presented by Texas Chemistry Teachers in the tradition exemplified by George Hague that teaching chemistry is fun. Plan to present your favorite laboratory experiments, demonstrations, activities or successful teaching strategies. Share and also add to your own teaching arsenal at the 2008 ACT₂ Biennial. In addition, presenters who submit proposals before July 1st will receive a \$15 discount on their registration fee!!!

Presentation Forms are available at <http://www.statweb.org/ACT2/>.

To complete the form, type the information on the form, then save, and finally e-mail the form as an attachment to biennial08@gmail.com. Complete one form for each presentation. If there is more than one presenter, designate one person to complete the form and list the other presenters as the co-presenters. The presenter completing the form will be contacted with all information concerning the presentation. A follow up e-mail will be sent if we need to clarify the supplies requested. If you e-mail presentation handouts to biennial08@gmail.com by July 1st, copies of your handouts will be provided for your session. A confirmation e-mail with final instructions will be sent before the conference.

Types of Sessions Include:

- Workshop 30 minutes or 70 minutes
A workshop should actively involve the audience in a hands-on experience. Handouts are required.
- Demonstration 30 minutes or 70 minutes
A demonstration session should include a series of experiments or demonstrations to illustrate scientific phenomena. Handouts are required.
- Lecture/Discussion 30 minutes or 70 minutes
A lecture/discussion presentation provides an opportunity to orally share teaching ideas or information. Handouts are suggested.

Share-A-Thon

The "Share-A- Thon" is a chance to share and receive 3 minute teaching tip/lab/activity/ demonstration or anything else. Please send your master electronically by July 1st so that it may be included on participants' flash drives to the following e-mail address biennial08@gmail.com with the subject line "Share-a Thon". Participating only in the Share-A-Thon does not qualify you for the discounted registration fee.

If none of these categories correctly describes what you would like to do, please let us know what you would like to do and how much time you will need. We will try to accommodate you.

American Chemical Society Summer Workshops

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

July 13-18, 2008

- **Teaching Inquiry Based Advanced HS Chemistry**

If you're looking for new ideas to enhance your advanced high school chemistry course, try this workshop based on the college textbook *Chemistry* and led by experienced chemistry educators. This 3-day residential workshop will give you the tools you need to incorporate inquiry into your advanced high school chemistry course.

- **Chemistry in the Community**

This is a 5 day residential workshop based on the *ChemCom* textbook and will introduce you the program philosophy as well as provide practical experience in unit content, strategies and lab activities.

It's a bargain!! The ACS covers meals and housing at the workshop site (guest and family members are not permitted). A \$50 registration fee is required. Go to the Education Page at www.acs.org and check out Courses and Workshops for Educators for more information, application forms and online registration.

A Demo for Le Chatelier's Principle

Alan Kupferman" <splunge92@verizon.net> (NSTA listserve)

I take two glass funnels and place them in ring stands next to each other. Then I connect the funnels with clear tubing. I simultaneously pour two different colored waters into the funnels until they are about halfway filled with their respective colored waters. I tell the students that the one on their left represents the reactants (let's say red water) and the one on their right represents the products (blue).

- I ask them to predict what will happen if I add more reactant (red water) to that side. As I pour it in, the level initially goes up, but then starts to lower as water flows through the tube to the blue side, causing the water level there to rise.
- I then ask what will happen if I remove reactant. I either draw some reactant (red water) off with a pipet or I physically lower the ring holding that funnel. The students can see the blue water level on the product side go down until a new equilibrium is reached.

I'm sure that others do something similar but I actually did think this up myself one year when I was frustrated with the class' difficulty with the topic.

I thought this was an nice way to show the concept of Le Chatelier's Principle with easily obtainable materials. js (This came from the Colorado Teachers' Newsletter)

Free graph paper utility, MathHelpCentral The following link has a program listed on the bottom of the page that will allow cutting & pasting into Works or Opendoc format. From there you can add your labels & print. You can customize almost any kind of graph paper you would ever need.

www.mathematicshelpcentral.com/graph_paper.htm

Each year as I grade papers, I am surprised to see how little of what goes on in class my students remember or understand. My thought is “what’s the point of wasting my time and energy if they can’t even recall the basic vocabulary?” This year, as I headed to ChemEd 2007, I was determined to increase student motivation and performance.

Two of the workshops I selected were “Teaching Students to Design Their Own Labs” and “Teaching Chemistry with Relevance” presented by Kelly Deters (www.reallifechemistry.net). I recalled doing performance based assessments and teaching ChemCom in a previous district but my current curriculum was lacking in this approach to teaching chemistry.

Today, there are more students are taking chemistry than ever before. It would be great if the increase was due to a natural interest in chemistry but we know that it is primarily due to the stricter state requirements. We also know that when you are made to take a class your interest is lower than when you chose to take one. This places pressure on the teacher to make the class entertaining, engaging, and relevant.

The traditional organization provides minimal real life applications. According to Kelly, this decreases student interest, allowing for shallower processing and students who fail to see the connections with the real world. One solution to this problem is contextual teaching and inquiry labs.

Why does inquiry and contextual teaching increase student performance? The answer lies in cognitive theory. Teenagers have approximately 7 working memory slots available to hold new information. More working memory “slots” are allotted for what interests them more, i.e. video games, shopping, texting, sports, dating, other classes, etc. How many slots are reserved for chemistry? I think we all would count ourselves lucky if the answer was one.

The key to getting more slots is increased motivation. Contextual teaching leads to an increase allocation of working memory slots. Once the student is motivated to learn, they have the ability to process and understand information. Students who ask “why do we need to learn this?” are seeking to link their prior knowledge to the new learning. Without this bridge, understanding is difficult.

The first step, if you don’t have a textbook that is contextual like Chemcom or Active Chemistry, is to develop themes for units. Choose themes to spark student interest and then match chemistry concepts to fit the new units. Inquiry labs should be used whenever appropriate. You can keep the same level of rigor is the same but ensure the materials all relate to a common issue.

Once you have your themes, you can develop questions that student could solve using inquiry. So what is the benefit of inquiry labs? Inquiry is about students doing science, applying newly learned techniques and concepts to solve problems. Students take an active part in their learning and become problem



solvers, and in turn, they are more interested and their confidence level increases.

Some roadblocks to inquiry labs include: they are more time consuming, students complain, teachers may feel a loss of control and may not have the available resources. So, here are some tips to get started.

- Start slow, begin removing portions of existing labs and have students design that portion.
- Keep it simple. (I did percentage of sugar in bubble gum, what type of reaction is burning of steel wool, density of sugar in beverages)
- Try Kelly's backward order...

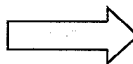
The traditional lab follows something like this:

Purpose
Background Info.
Materials
Safety
Procedure
Data
Results/Calculations
Conclusion

My students used to complain about doing lab writeups and I had a large percentage that wouldn't even finish.

The problem is, teachers and scientists tend to design labs backwards. For example, how can you identify the materials and safety precautions until you have a procedure? How can you write a procedure until you know what data you want to collect? And so on...

The solution is to rearrange the order for the students.



And yes, it is ok for them to turn it in in this order. (deep breaths OCD folks) I have done four inquiry labs so far this year and every student has finished - most before class was even over.

In addition to the new sequence, Kelly took this one step further, she developed a computer program to design labs online. You can see her online student design labs template on her website www.reallifechemistry.net. My students have been using it this year: I check out the portable laptops and off they go. The program allows the teacher to add comments before each portion of the lab to give hints, instructions, and points. Now they know exactly what I am looking for and we are all a lot happier.

Purpose
Background Info.
Results/Calculations
Data
Procedure
Safety
Materials
Conclusion

Siggy Diggy and Some Salty Stuff

Those of you who have been at ACT₂ doin's through the years have probably seen Shelly do her Siggy Diggy rap—if you haven't it, she's usually amenable to breakin' it out with a little begging. Here are the words:

Getting' Jiggy with Da Siggy Diggy Shelly Abernathy, Georgetown HS

You know your calculator
You think it is your friend
You love all of those numbers
All 13 at the end

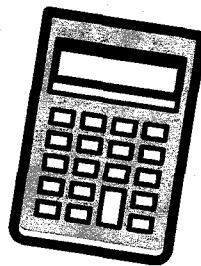
Chorus: Gettin' jiggy wid da Siggy Diggy
Yeah, yeah, uh, uh
Repeat

And when it comes to rounding
You must just do it once.
If you do it more than that
Then you will look the dunce

Chorus

And when it comes to zeros
Sometimes they just hold place.
You must know their significance
So you can save your face

Chorus
Siggy Diggy!



What crime does the following suggest: anaclandaacell?

Assault and battery [a salt (NaCl) and battery (AAA cell)]
From the *Ask Marilyn* column in *Parade* July 16, 2006



And speaking of salt...here's a nice freezing point depression lab idea from Meg Young, Lamar High School in Arlington. "After receiving a bunch of tennis ball canisters from our tennis coach, I decided to try using them as an alternative for making ice cream in ziplocks or coffee cans. I bought Flavor Ice/Otter Pops and froze those instead. We found that 50 grams of rock salt and a tennis ball canister full of ice plus some shaking resulted in the best results. If lots of water formed, we dumped out some of the water and added ice and a spoonful more of salt. All the pops froze. The tennis ball canisters didn't have to be taped and didn't really leak. There was lots of condensation on the outside of the canisters. The canisters can be used again next year and the students really enjoyed the frozen pop. It was much easier to do than the ice cream plus very budget friendly and less of a mess." Meg says she subsequently noticed this idea in *CHEM13 NEWS* but couldn't find the reference.



2

Associated Chemistry Teachers of Texas MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Current members should use this form to update information)

☐ NEW OR ☐ RENEW Date _____

Name _____
First Middle Last

E-Mail Address _____

School District _____ I.S.D. ESC Region _____

School Name _____ STAT Member ☐ Yes
☐ No

Home Address (where mail can be sent even during the summer)

Street City State Zip

Phone Numbers (include area codes)

() _____ () _____ () _____
Home School FAX

reACTant Info: (How would you like to receive the newsletter?)

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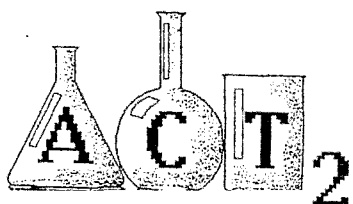
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In the next issue???

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